

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 H-03 EB-11 OMB-01 IO-14 ACDA-19

EA-11 DRC-01 /171 W

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R 171210Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7540

SECDEF

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

USNMR SHAPE

JUSMG/MAAG MADRID SP

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 7446

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR SP NATO

SUBJECT: BRIEFING FOR SPANISH ON DPC

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1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS (BERGOLD) AND DEFENSE ADVISOR AT US MISSION NATO (PRENDERGAST) BRIEFED GROUP OF 15 SPANISH MILITARY AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS DECEMBER 14 ON DPC AND RELATED DEFENSE MATTERS AFFECTING WESTERN ALLIANCE. IN DISCUSSIONS, BERGOLD BROUGHT OUT SECDEF'S REAFFIRMATIONS AT DPC OF IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING NATO STRUCTURE FOR LONG HAUL AND ASSURING THAT IT SUPPORTED BY CREDIBLE CONVENTIONAL FORCES. ALSO TOOK NOTE SECDEF'S CONTINUING EMPHASIS ON MORE EQUITABLE SHARING OF BURDENS, PARTICULARLY AS MEANS OF GAINING CONTINUED CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR MAINTAINING US FORCES LEVELS IN EUROPE. SPANISH WERE GIVEN TEXT OF SECDEF'S STATEMENT AGAIN URGING EUROPEANS TO RECOGNIZE VALUE OF SPAIN'S CONTRIBUTION TO WESTERN DEFENSE.

2. BERGOLD OUTLINED IN GENERAL TERMS INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING ON WARSAW PACT CAPABILITIES DEFENSE MINISTERS HAD RECEIVED, WITH SOME DISCUSSION OF DOD'S INTERPRETATIONS OF THIS ASSESSMENT. HE ALSO DISCUSSED, IN GENERAL TERMS, PRESENTATION GIVEN BY GENERAL STEINHOFF, TAKING NOTE MILITARY LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM RECENT MID-EAST CONFLICT. DEFENSE ADVISOR SKETCHED DEFENSE MINISTERS' SUPPORT FOR UP-GRADING OF ANTI-TANK WEAPONS, AIRCRAFT SHELTERS AND AUGMENTATION OF RESERVE STOCKS.

3. FINALLY, BRIEFERS TOUCHED ON LATEST INITIATIVES IN AREA OF FORCE SPECIALIZATION AND RATIONALIZATION, NOTING MINISTERS SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED STUDY IN BROAD TERMS. THEY CONCLUDED THAT, WHILE RESULTS OF US EFFORTS SINCE PREVIOUS DPC TO PERSUADE EUROPEAN MEMBERS TO ASSUME MORE OF DEFENSE BURDEN HAD FALLEN SOMEWHAT SHORT OF EXPECTATIONS, DEFENSE MINISTERS HAD EXPRESSED CLEAR INTENTION TO DEVELOP MEANS OF ASSUMING A GREATER SHARE OF THIS BURDEN. LATER, DEFENSE ADVISOR POINTED OUT THAT, IN SPITE OF DOMESTIC PRESSURES TO CUT BACK DEFENSE BUDGET, EUROGROUP HAD BEEN ABLE TO ANNOUNCE THAT THEIR TOTAL BUDGETS FOR NEXT YEAR WILL INCREASE BY SOME TWO BILLION DOLLARS.

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4. SUBSEQUENT SPANISH QUESTIONS RANGED OVER STRATEGIC, POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF DPC, CURRENT CONDITION OF ALLIANCE, AND SOVIET THREAT WORLD-WIDE. SPANISH WONDERED WHETHER DEFENSE MINISTERS, IN SPITE OF GOOD INTENTIONS EXPRESSED, WOULD BE ABLE TO BRING ABOUT INCREASE IN THE BURDEN SHARING. SPANISH, AS IN PAST, ASKED HOW EUROPEANS HAD RESPONDED TO US EXORTATIONS FOR GREATER RECOGNITION OF POTENTIAL SPANISH CONTRIBUTION.

DEFENSE REPS COMMENTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE IMMEDIATELY APPARENT REACTION, BUT THAT US REMAINED COMMITTED TO POSITION THAT SPAIN SHOULD HAVE A ROLE AND THAT IT WOULD CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR REALISTIC, SUBSTANTIVE MEANS TO BRING THIS ABOUT.

5. SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL QUESTIONED HOW DPC APPEAL FOR FORCE BUILD-UP COULD BE RECONCILED WITH CURRENT MBFR TALKS. US REPS EXPLAINED THAT ADEQUATE FORCES ARE IMPORTANT TO ASSURE SUCCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS. THEY ADDED THAT SINCE SOVIETS HAVE INCREASED THEIR FORCE LEVELS IN EASTERN EUROPE, IT IS NOT INCONSISTENT FOR NATO TO IMPROVE ITS FORCES. PROVIDING FURTHER BACKGROUND ON MBFR, DEFENSE REPS SAID THAT SOVIETS APPEAR TO HAVE MADE SERIOUS PROPOSALS AT VIENNA AND HAD COME TO NEGOTIATION WITH APPARENT INTEREST IN MOVING AHEAD. DESPITE WIDESPREAD IMPRESSION OF DISUNITY IN THE ALLIANCE HEIGHTENED BY MIDDLE-EAST EVENTS, THEY CONTINUED, CONDUCT OF WESTERN COUNTRIES AT MBFR IS GOOD EXAMPLE OF NATO'S COHESION AND ITS ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER.

6. CITING STEINHOFF'S COMMENTS AT DPC ON IMPACT OF FUEL SHORTAGES ON NATO FORCES' TRAINING, FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ASKED WHETHER SHORTAGE COULD HAVE MORE SEVERE IMPACT THAN ANTICIPATED, DEGRADING EVEN NATO'S MOBILITY AND ITS OVERALL ABILITY TO REACT. DEFENSE REPS POINTED OUT THAT DEFENSE MINISTERS WERE IN AGREEMENT THAT MILITARY FORCES MUST HAVE FIRST CALL ON PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, THOUGH ADMITTEDLY, IN SOME ALLIANCE COUNTRIES SUCH PRIORITIES STILL BEING CHALLENGED. DEFENSE MINISTERS, NEVERTHELESS, WERE OPTIMISTIC THAT MILITARY FORCES W7)\$ MAINTAIN THEIR PRIORITY POSITION, THOUGH IN SOME OPERATIONAL AREAS, SUCH AS TRAINING, REDUCTIONS WOULD BE

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SOUGHT THAT WOULD HAVE LEAST EFFECT ON READINESS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MADRID 7446

7. SPANISH SHOWED KEEN INTEREST IN GROWTH OF SOVIET
RECONNAISSANCE EFFORTS IN SOUTH ATLANTIC AND SOVIET
WORLD-WIDE NAVAL BUILD-UP. ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE NATO
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RESPONSES TO SOUTH ATLANTIC THREAT, DEFENSE REPS SAID
THAT NATO NOW CONSIDERING WAYS OF MEETING SOVIET THREAT
BEYOND THE TREATY AREA SUCH AS SOUTH ATLANTIC AND MIDDLE-
EAST. THEY COMMENTED THAT, AS IN CASE OF THE EAST-WEST
ASPECT MIDDLE-EAST CONFLICT, US HAS LOOKED AT WORLD AS
SINGLE STRATEGIC SCENE AND HAS BEEN RELUCTANT TO RULE
OUT ARBITRARILY ANY AREA BEYOND TREATY'S SCOPE AS
IRRELEVANT TO NATO SECURITY. US MADE THIS POINT TO ALLIES

DURING MIDDLE-EAST CRISIS.

8. SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAD CHARACTERIZED SOVIET NAVAL BUILD-UP IN INDIAN OCEAN AS "INTENSIVE". HE ASKED WHETHER INDIA WILL NOW GIVE SOVIET NAVY PORT FACILITIES. AGREEING THAT SOVIET NAVY HAD INCREASED SHIP-DAYS IN INDIAN OCEAN, AS HAD US, DEFENSE REPS CLAIMED NO CONCLUSIVE INFORMATION ON ANY RECENT INDO-SOVIET AGREEMENT TO GIVE SOVIET NAVY FACILITIES AT INDIAN PORTS. SIMILARLY, IN RESPONSE TO SIMILAR QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBLE YUGOSLAV PORT CONCESSIONS TO SOVIETS, DEF REPS SAW NO FIRM EVIDENCE THAT YUGOSLAVS HAD MADE CONCESSIONS, THOUGH THEY AGREED THAT THEIR OVER-ALL ATTITUDE TOWARD SOVIETS HAD, IN RECENT MONTHS, BEEN NOTABLY MORE FORTHCOMING.

9. SPANISH ASKED ABOUT LONG RANGE SIGNIFICANCE OF RECENT SENATE COMMITTEE ACTION CUTTING DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR TRIDENT. ALTHOUGH LACKING DETAILED CURRENT INFORMATION ON TRIDENT'S LEGISLATIVE STATUS, DEFENSE REPS POINTED OUT SENATE ACTION DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN DELAY AT THIS TIME SINCE APPROPRIATIONS MAY RUN SEVERAL YEARS AHEAD OF ACTUAL EXPENDITURES. MOREOVER, SENATE ACTION ONLY ONE STEP IN APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS WHICH STILL NOT COMPLETE. THEY USED OPPORTUNITY TO STATE THAT SECDEF GIVES HIGH PRIORITY TO ADEQUATE FUNDING OF THESE STRATEGIC WEAPONS SYSTEMS AND THAT THE CONSIDERABLE TIME HE HAD SPENT TO PERSUADE CONGRESS OF ITS IMPORTANCE HAD HAD POSITIVE RESULTS.

10. SPANISH INQUIRED WHETHER US OR OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES NOW DEVELOPING SURFACE TO AIR MISSILE AS EFFECTIVE AS SOVIET SAMS. IN ABSENCE OF HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL

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SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL DATA, DEFENSE REPS POINTED OUT ONLY THAT SECDEF CONSIDERED THAT MIDDLE-EAST CONFLICT HAD SHOWN US WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT TO BE SUPERIOR TO THAT OF SOVIETS. THEY SUGGESTED THAT MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THIS QUESTION MIGHT BE PROVIDED SPANISH LATER.

11. SPANISH INQUIRED ABOUT POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF NEW SOVIET PRACTICE OF DOWNGRADING PARTY LOYALTY AS CRITERIA IN FILLING KEY COMMANDS. DEFENSE REPS SAW THIS AS ADDED EMPHASIS ON PROFESSIONALISM RATHER THAN INDICATION OF ANY SPLIT BETWEEN COMMUNIST PARTY AND SOVIET MILITARY.

12. COMMENT: NUMBER, RANK AND POSITIONS OF MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC OFFICIALS PARTICIPATING AS WELL AS INTEREST THEY SHOWED CONFIRMED KEEN AND CONTINUING INTEREST

OF SPANISH IN BRIEFINGS BOTH AS SOURCE OF USEFUL MILITARY INFORMATION AND AS EARNEST OF US SUPPORT FOR SPANISH LINKAGE TO WESTERN DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS. WHILE BRIEFINGS HAVE RECEIVED MINIMAL PUBLICITY IN RECENT PAST, SEVERAL MADRID DAILIES CARRIED REPORTS ON THIS OCCASION. MOST EXTENSIVE WAS THAT OF NEUVO DIARIO, MADRID DAILY PARTLY CONTROLLED BY FOREIGN MINISTER LOPEZ RODO, WHOSE FRONT PAGE REPORT OF BRIEFINGS SAID THIS WAS TWENTY-SEVENTH IN SERIES OF US BRIEFINGS ON NATO MEETINGS GOING BACK TO 1964. NUEVO DIARIO CONTINUED WITH DETAILED LISTING OF SENIOR US OFFICIALS, INCLUDING SECSTATE'S DEAN RUSK((DECEMBER 1965 AND NOVEMBER 1968) AND WILLIAM ROGERS (MAY 1971), WHO HAVE VISITED SPAIN SUPPOSEDLY IN CONNECTION WITH NATO DISCUSSIONS.
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